Southeast Perspective

a publication of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

June '98

Clergy Alerts

Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS is seeking a new **executive director**, as the present director will retire on December 31. This UCC ministry, active since the early 1920s, provides health care services, shelter for battered women and their children, participates in an HIV/AIDS task force, and more. Contact the Conference office for further information.

The **Conference website** has been launched! While the site is still under construction, several resources are already available. Ken Mattern, a professional webmaster, has generously volunteered to maintain the site. To check it out, visit *www.secucc.org*.

Registration information for the following conferences is available from the Conference office —

- July 13-17 at Columbia Theological Seminary: *The Transition from Seminary to the First Parish*. Call 404/687 4562 for info.
- February 3-6, 1999 in Chicago: *Faith Odyssey*, an experience for church educators, pastors, and educational leaders.

The Inter-Instrumentalities **Urban Strategies Team** will be funding new urban proposals for 1999-2000. Criteria are available from the Conference office, and the deadline for proposals (2-3 pages) is October 9.

The **1998 Southeast Women's Retreat** will be held November 20-22 at Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Alabama under the theme, *God's Amistad — An Invitation to the Table*.

The Conference continues to seek a volunteer to serve as **Resource Librarian**, managing the Atlanta-based Resource Center on a mail-lending basis. The position requires a commitment of four to eight hours each month, maintaining the Center's lending activity.

Conference Office: 800/807 1993

Annual Meeting a crowd-pleaser!

Thanks to the superb organizational skills and tremendous energy of Marta Morrison and the planning committee, the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting at Simpsonwood Retreat Center proved a great success. Participants enjoyed the many opportunities for worship, learning, discussion, fellowship, sunning and even a little shopping.

The business of the Conference was conducted smoothly on Saturday morning, with reports from the Conference Minister and Associates, the Moderator, and the Conference committees and Commissions. Even the budget was approved easily! The slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee was approved and elected by acclamation, with the following individuals accepting their new posts at a Sunday morning meeting:

Moderator	Donald Harmon	EAL/WGA
Vice Moderator	Steve Parker	GA/SC
Secretary	Don Hewett	ALA/TN
Treasurer	Dave Speno	GA/SC
Past Moderator	Dr. Annie Neal	ALA/TN
At Large	Kimberly Hunt	ALA/TN
	Gary Myers	ALA/TN
Assoc. Reps	Angie Wright	ALA/TN
	Annette Nielsen	GA/SC
	Louise Cox	EAL/WGA
	Woody Clark	SAL/NWFL

Nominated to serve as members of the Commissions:

Christian Educ	Kristi Denham	GA/SC
Church Dev/Evang	Pat Kask	GA/SC
Church & Ministry	Marian Rogers	ALA/TN
Social Justice	Carol Jean Miller	GA/SC
Stwdship/OCWM	Marvin Mangham	GA/SC
Women in Ch/Soc	Kathryn Robinson	ALA/TN

In addition, the gathered delegates approved the amendments to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ regarding the church's restructuring, voted at General Synod XXI, and approved by standing ovation a resolution condemning the recent torture and murder of an African-American man in Texas.

The youth delegates to the Annual Meeting spoke out on Saturday, expressing their concern over issues of particular importance to youth, including teen pregnancy, violence in schools and among gangs, self-esteem, and more.

A complete book of the Annual Reports, which includes up-to-date directories of Conference churches, clergy and leadership, can be obtained from the Conference office.

Many thanks to all who attended, and especially to those who worked so hard to make Annual Meeting '98 such a crowd pleaser. We all look forward to the next gathering in Cullman, AL in 1999.

Transitions

Installations

- Virginia Brown as pastor of Pilgrim Congregational in Birmingham.

Roles

- In the fall, Joyce Hollyday will be assuming responsibility for Conference print communications, in addition to her present role as Conference Associate.

If you, your family, or one of your ministry colleagues is in a transition, whether it be a celebration or a struggle, we'd like to inform the Conference family so that they may remember their concerns in their thoughts and prayers. Please contact the Conference office with your "transitions," and we'll include them in the next issue of *Perspective*.

Board Highlights

From the 1998 Annual Meeting

- Received title to the Allen Retreat Center land, and agreed to distribute $2,000 of the budget surplus to the center.
- Approved the installation of a computer network in the Conference office.
- Appointed Arthur Domby as Conference Attorney, confirmed Gerri Ryons-Hudson as Administrative Assistant, contracted with Cheri Lovell to upgrade Conference communications.
- Established goals and objectives for each of the Commissions at the Program Planning Committee meeting.
- Affirmed the Conference's commitment to increase its national contribution to OCWM, and recommended all congregations be encouraged to become "tithing" congregations (10% of current expenses) to OCWM.
- Organized a Scholarship Committee and distributed funds.
- Received a request from St. John's United Church in Cullman, AL to move from ALA/TN to EAL/WGA.
- Empowered the Finance Committee to renegotiate a financial agreement with Victory Tabernacle Temple and authorized the committee's negotiations with the "faithful remnant" of the Heart of Georgia to bring their concerns to resolution.
- Celebrated the progress in establishing and training Crisis Response Teams to intervene in clergy sexual misconduct matters.
- Reviewed plans and approved progress for a South Dekalb new church start.

Clip and photocopy

Southeast Conference

Calendar of Prayer

July 5	Trinity United Church of Christ in Hampton, GA and their new leadership
July 12	First Congregational Christian UCC in Andalusia, AL as they face present challenges
July 19	First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, TN and their new leadership (and 125th anniversary!)
July 26	Mountain Grove Congreg. UCC in Hanceville, AL seeking to grow with Dennis Lott
Aug 2	Pleasant Grove Congreg. Chr. UCC in LaFayette, AL as the Allen Center grows and takes shape
Aug 9	Good Shepherd Community Church of Christ, Rush Memorial Congregational UCC, Center Congregational, seeking to find fields ripe for harvest in Atlanta
Aug 16	Antioch Congreg. Christian UCC in Andalusia, AL as it completes prepataions for enlargement
Aug 23	Union United Church of Christ in Tougaloo, AL in need of fellowship with other Conference churches
Aug 30	Central Congreg. United Church of Christ in Atlanta seeking new avenues of service and growth
Sept 6	The Georgia/South Carolina Association and its meeting on September 12 in Beachton, GA
Sept 13	The Alabama/Tennessee Association and its meeting on September 19 in Chattanooga
Sept 20	All who have helped during the stormy season just past, with hope and trust that we will not forget the needy as a new church year begins
Sept 27	The South Alabama/Northwest Florida Association and its meeting on October 3
Oct 4	The East Alabama/West Georgia Association and its meeting on October 10

Conference Clips

- Geoff Shaw, an international volunteer from the United Kingdom, has accepted an invitation to serve with Jubilee Partners in Comer, GA trough September 1. Geoff comes to the Southeast through the GAP program and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries' Voluntary Service division.
- The Southeast Conference was recognized by the Stewardship Council for its 1997 increase in total Basic Support to the United Church of Christ. Our next goal: tithing congregations!

Resources

- The1998 Issues Briefing Book from the Justice & Peace Ministry is available in the Conference Office. Issues addressed relate to specific nations and regions around the world, as well as particular concerns such as hunger, the environment, civil and human rights, justice for women and more. Alongside each issue description in the Briefing Book is a list of resources and actions. Additional copies may be obtained from the UCC Justice & Peace Ministry, 216/736 2176.
- New brochures from the *Kerygma* program announce two new studies: *Parables: Stories for Life in God's World* (a seven-part study) and *Into the World: The Acts of the Apostles* (a 14-part study). Brochures are available in the Conference office.
- Interested in establishing a relationship with a missionary? Contact Sandra Rooney at the UCBWM, 216/736 3208.
- The new edition of the United Church Press *Guide to Curriculum Selection* is available in the Conference office. The Guide includes brochures and catalogs covering a range of curriculum for Sunday School and adult education.
- The Justice & Peace Ministry publishes a monthly newsletter and offers educational materials for its monthly Action Issues. Call 216/736 2178 for information.
- The Spring issue of *Common Lot*, a publication of the UCC's Coordinating Center for Women, is available in the Conference office.
- The United Church Insurance Board may be able to *decrease* your church's insurance costs, while improving your overall coverage! The Board will offer a workshop at the Annual Meeting – in the meantime, information is available from the Conference office.
- All churches should have received a mailing of resources for 1998 Family Week. A copy is available in the Conference office, along with information about additional resources related to children and their situation around the world.
- *Connections*, the quarterly resource magazine published by the Stewardship Council, is available both in print and on disk. If you have not received your copy of *Connections*, call the Stewardship Council at 216/736 2190.

KYP

- The Justice & Peace Ministry is participating in a National Call to Washington DC on July 25, to denounce the Centennial of the US invasion and colonization of Puerto Rico, to reaffirm the right of the Puerto Rican people as a nation to self-determination, and to demand the release of political prisoners. The event will include an overnight vigil in front of the White House, a political rally, and a concert by Andres Jimenez. Events will also be held in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and New York. For information on Puerto Rican issues, call the Conference office.
- The Justice & Peace Ministry has also issued an Action Alert about Campaign Finance Reform and the protection of the separation of church and state. For more information, call the Ministry at 216/736 2178.
- The *Building Democracy Conference* of the American Missionary Association will be held November 13-14 in Chicago, with keynote speaker Cornel West. This year's conference will focus on extremism, hate groups, and white supremacy in America. Two hundred registration slots for UCC participants have been reserved – for registration information, call The Center for New Community at 708/848 0319.
- The Office for Church in Society has passed a resolution calling for the abolition of the death penalty. A copy of the resolution may be obtained from the Conference office.

Sponsor a Child!

You've seen the pitches on TV, but did you know the UCC has a Child Sponsorship Program of its own? The UCBWM program works closely with long-term partners from religious organizations in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter and health care to children in homeless shelters, orphanages and schools.

Sponsorship fees range from $25-$40 a month, depending on the center you choose, and only $1-5 goes to administrative costs. For more information, call

Lourdes Garcia
212/870 2479
garcial@ucc.org

The Conference Calendar

JUNE

20
ALA/TN Executive Committee
Huntsville, AL

23
Allen Retreat Center Committee
Lanett, AL

26 - July 6
Tim Downs on vacation

JULY

7
South Dekalb Church Start Committee
Conference Call

8
Staff Meeting with Joan Brannick (Pension Boards)
Atlanta

10-11
Covenant for Renewal Teams Training
Chattanooga

12
Installation of Virginia Brown
Pilgrim Congregational Church
Birmingham, AL

19
Paul Sherry preaching at 125th Anniversary
First United Church of Christ
Belvidere, TN

News, updates, calendar of prayer and more!

Southeast Conference
of the
United Church of Christ
756 W. Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308